centimes per kilogram, depending on quality, in northern Laos.

Betel nuts. It is a well-known fact that commerce in betel nuts is quite extensive in the Far East, since the number of consumers runs into several millions. It is therefore a crop to be developed and encouraged, all the more so because the climate, soil and temperature of Laos are perfectly suited to plantations of this type. 24 185 435

In Laos the harvest from about three trees sells for one tical (1 franc, 50 centimes). In Cochinchina the produce of a single tree is worth about one piaster (2 francs, 50 centimes). It is therefore evident that it would be profitable to export this nut in large quantities.

PRUNING AND GRAFTING FRUIT TREES. The natives in Laos, as a consequence of ignorance, lack of initiative, carelessness and also lack of the necessary means, do not give sufficient care to fruit trees. The result is that the latter, at least in the case of most varieties, bear only degenerate fruits. 24 185

It is to be desired that these trees should no longer be abandoned in this manner, without being pruned, trimmed or grafted. Thought might then be given not only to improving the natives' diet in the way of fruit, but perhaps also to creating new resources by preparing certain kinds of preserves, fruits with juice, compotes and jams.

Again it is the administration alone, with the means of action at its disposition and the authority in its possession, which could act in an effective manner.

The colonial and botanical gardens, etc., should be able to provide administrators with precise information on the care to be given to the various fruit trees, both in order to improve their fruit and to increase their yield.

The obvious middlemen between the administration and the population are the bonzes. The latter, if they were the possessors of industrial knowledge, would be listened to and imitated above all others when they provided an example by giving their care to the numerous varieties of fruit trees which they keep up within the enclosures of pagodas or nearby.